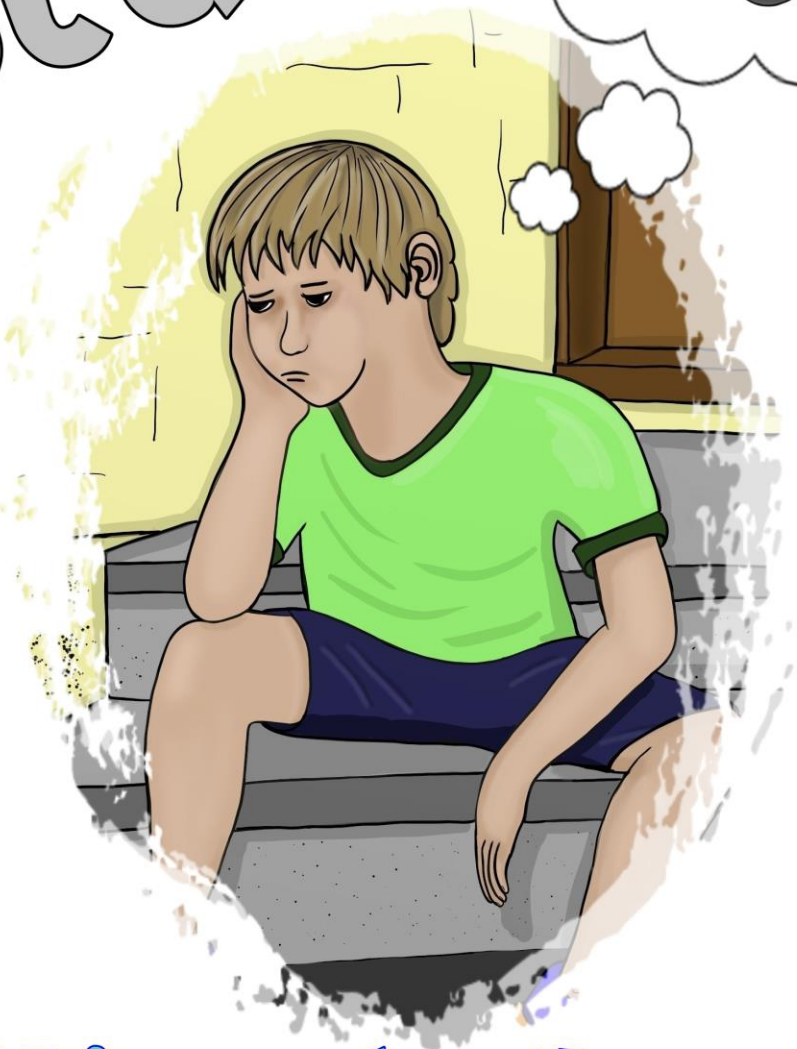
Stuck



Written by Kamon

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Are you bored too?

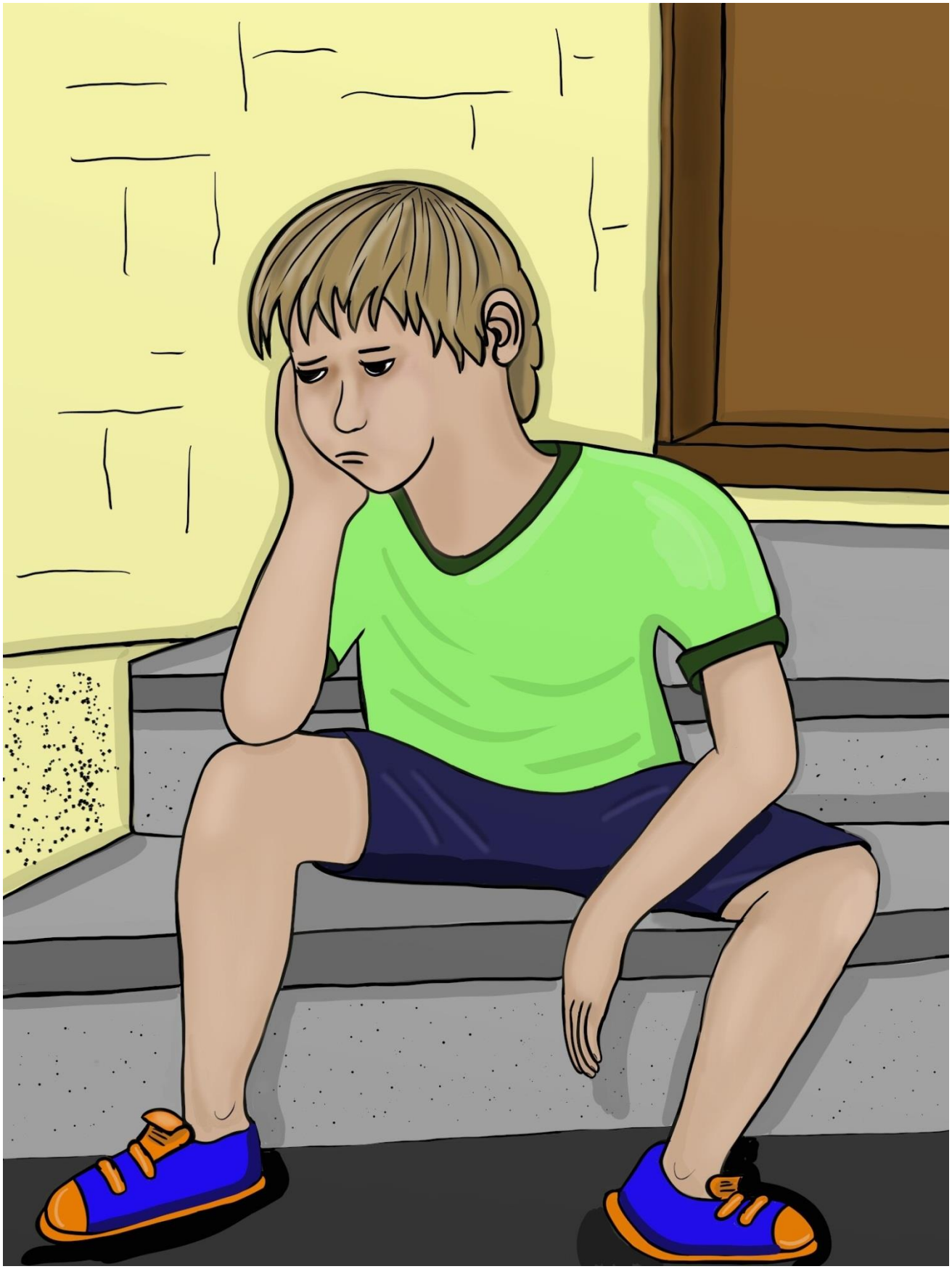
Mom and Dad didn't live together anymore. What a **bummer**!

Now Marc and his parents were on a dumb **schedule**. Dad came to visit every other weekend. Last week, Marc got to spent time with Dad, but they couldn't do any outdoor activities because it rained all weekend. This Saturday, today, the weather was perfect. Dad and Marc could have gone fishing, but it wasn't Dad's turn. This week, Marc was with Mom.

Marc sat on the porch, thinking:

"This is BORING! Yes, this is BORING and THICK!"

Just then smiling and colorful memories traced in Mark's **imagination**, a path out of the boredom kingdom.



“I wasn’t bored like this when I was little,” thought Marc. “I used to get away with so many things, like... climbing the wall in Gran’s living room while pretending to reach a **UFO**. Everything turned out to be funny and my life was like the **Discovery Channel**. I don’t remember having such a **dull** time, ever.”

Marc's heart and mind went back to those **HAPPY DAYS**.

Gran often babysat Marc.

How many **TIMES** did he save ants from an **imaginary** fire while Gran was busy inside?

Amazing what he could get away with when he was **small**. Growing up was not fun!

Gran's house was near a mangrove. A short walk to the seashore. The beach was too muddy for swimming, but it was GREAT for CRAB RACING.

One day, when they headed to the beach, Gran said, "Wait here, Marc. I'll check and if the mud isn't too deep, you can follow me."

Gran had walked along the beach many times, but this time she got stuck in the mud up to her knees. She was shorter, much shorter...

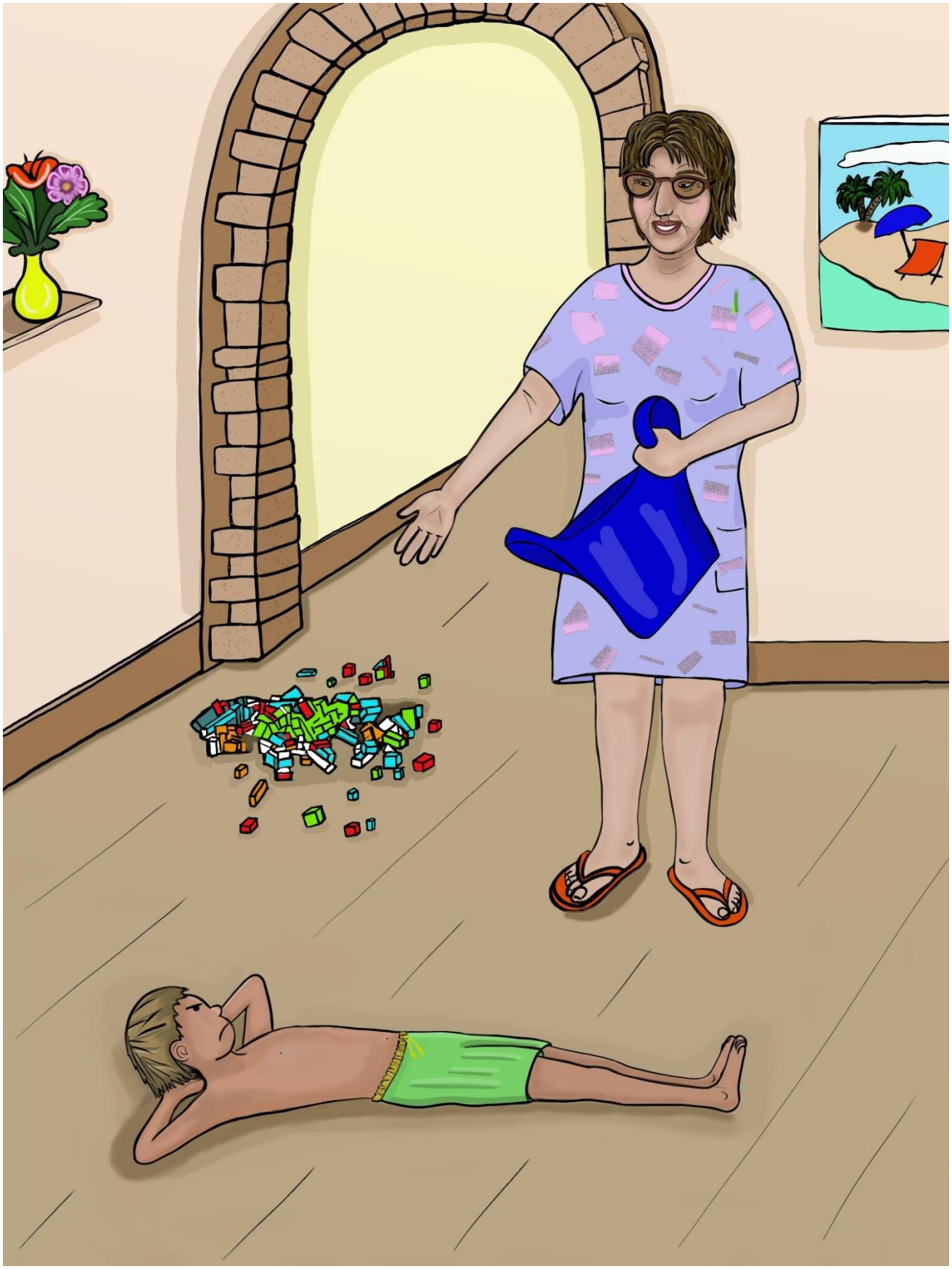
Marc ran, leap-frogged, and splashed in the sea. He laughed and shouted, "Get ready for takeoff, Marc-O-Rocket 707. GO!"

Marc and Gran laughed all the way home.

"I'm too big now," thought Marc. "I'd hate Gran to get stuck in the mud."

Another time when Marc was staying with Gran, she said, “Marc, your mom is coming soon. Gather your **Lego** and put it away in the bag.”

“No, I don’t want a bag!” yelled Marc. “**Plastic bags** are pollution! I am **Doctor Green**, nah!”



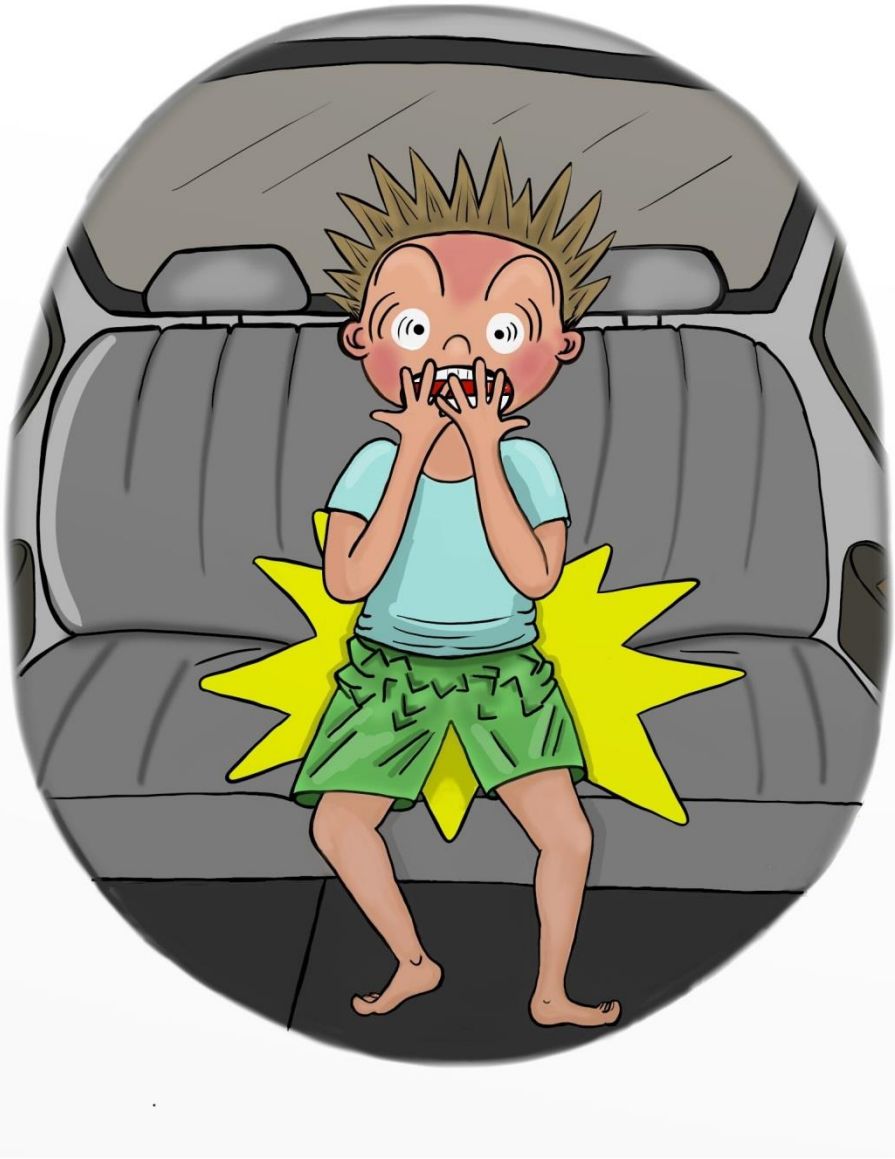
“Well, **Doctor Green**, I don’t have anything else,” said Gran. “The **reusable** bags are in the car and your grandpa has the car.” Gran smiled. “If you don’t put the Lego in this bag, how are you going to take it home? In your underwear?”

Marc stuffed the Lego in his underwear. He laughed so much, the Lego nearly fell out.

When he finished, he cried, “**Doctor Green**, the Lego Keeper saves the world! Ta-da!”

Gran stared at him, speechless.

All was well until he sat in the car.



Now Marc was older and even going to Gran's house wasn't as much fun. He couldn't get away with the pranks anymore. Like the time he used Gran's lipstick and an improvised zombie kit to scare away a monster galactic **spider**.

When he was six he wanted to be older. Now he was **stuck**, everything was boring, and he couldn't go back in time.

To add to this **BORING** Saturday, his best friend Frederic had recently moved to Toronto.

PASTA

Marc didn't even have a pet because no one had time to look after it. Mom worked weekdays and he was at school.

"A pet would have to stay alone all day," explained Mom.

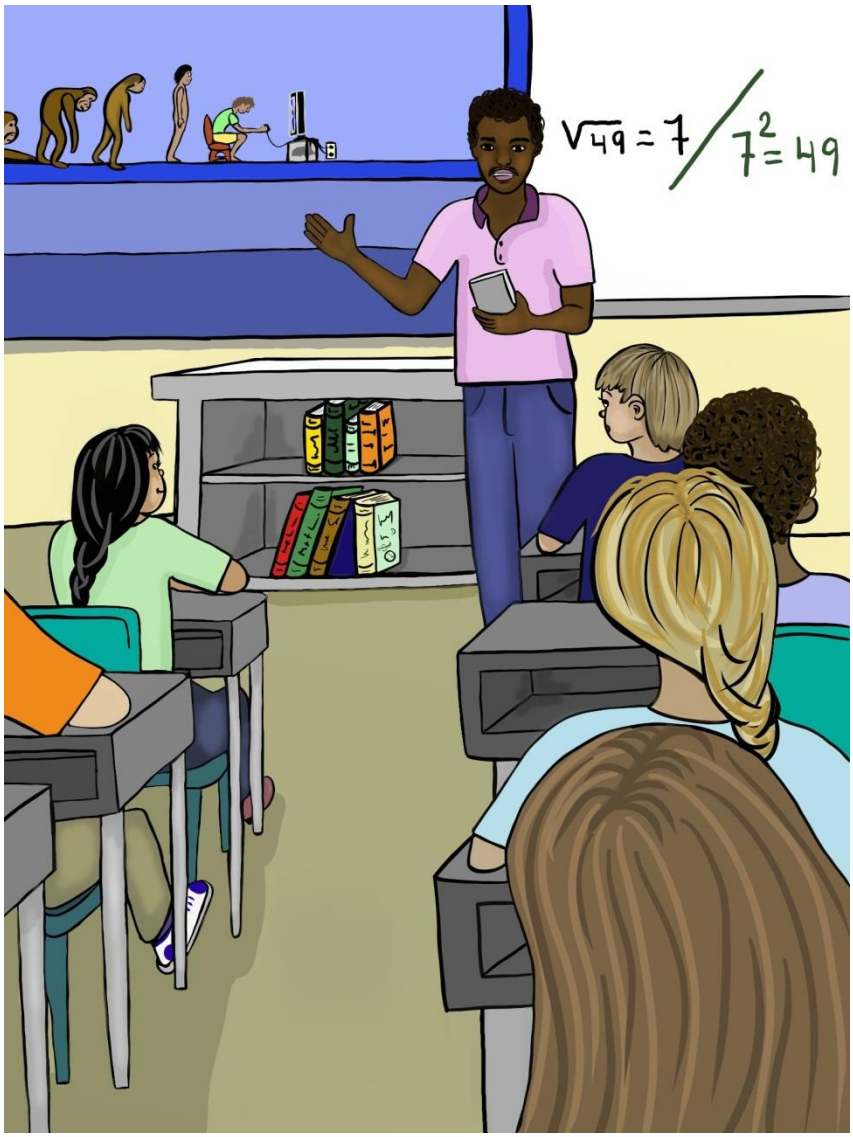
Boring! Marc knew what it was like to be bored and **LONELY**. He couldn't do the same to a pet. It wouldn't be fair.

Marc had tried playing soccer, but he never got picked for the school team. Soccer wasn't an activity he enjoyed.

What Marc really enjoyed was going out in the wild with his dad, **camping**, fishing, or trekking. Nothing could replace these adventures, especially today.

Marc's friends loved to play video **games**. Marc had a few video games, but he wasn't crazy about playing them.

Last year, his teacher explained, “Spending too much time playing video games isn’t good for you. You need exercise and fresh air. You need to spend time with friends. Not stuck inside, playing games by yourself.”



Marc’s parents agreed, which was amazing because they didn’t agree on anything else.

Marc's friends, James, Heather, and Lark started a rock band. They played their first song at the school assembly last week.

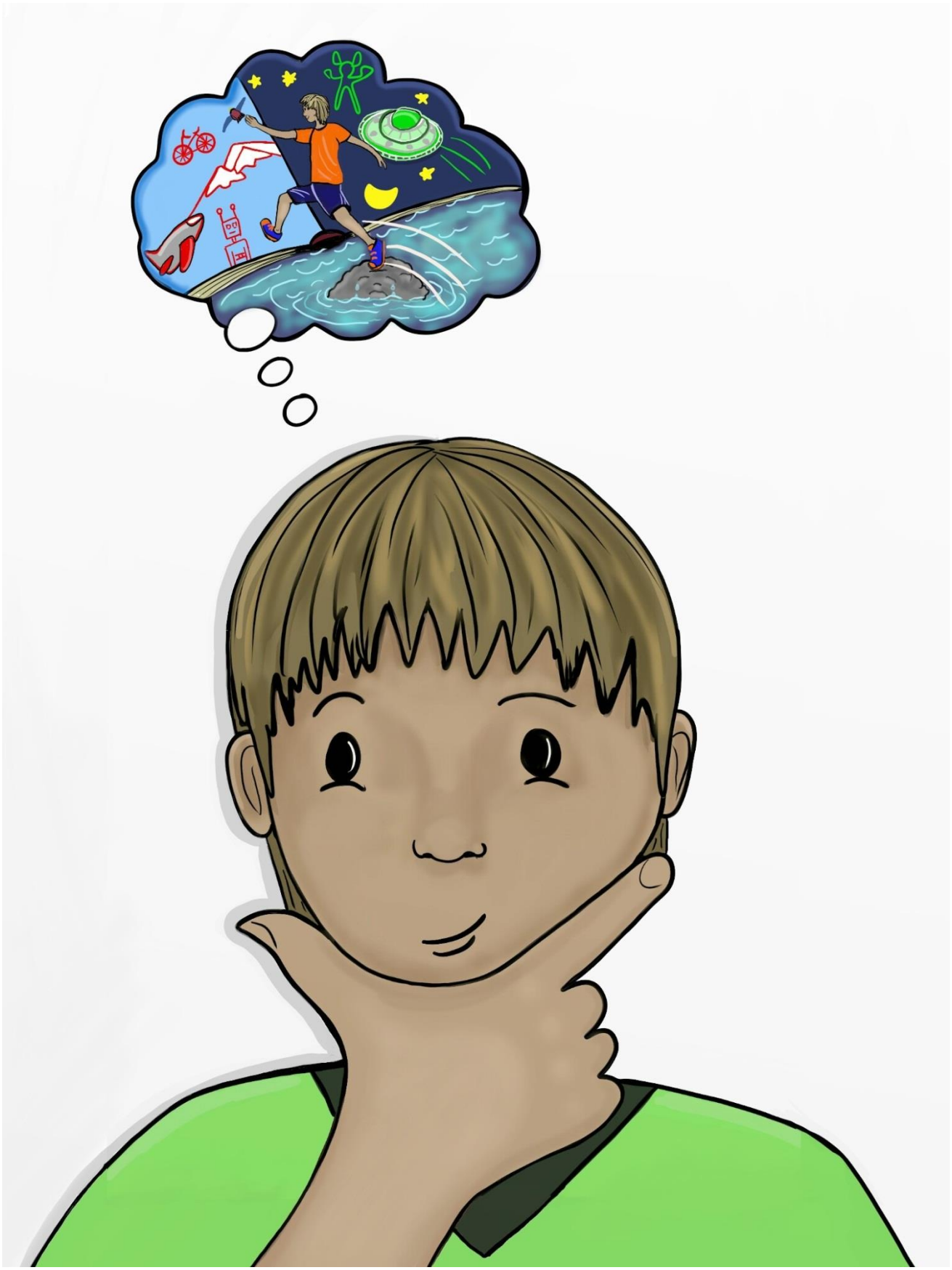
"The song came from a few notes in my head," said James. Marc didn't play an instrument, so he couldn't fight the boredom ghost by joining a band.

“BORING,” thought Marc.

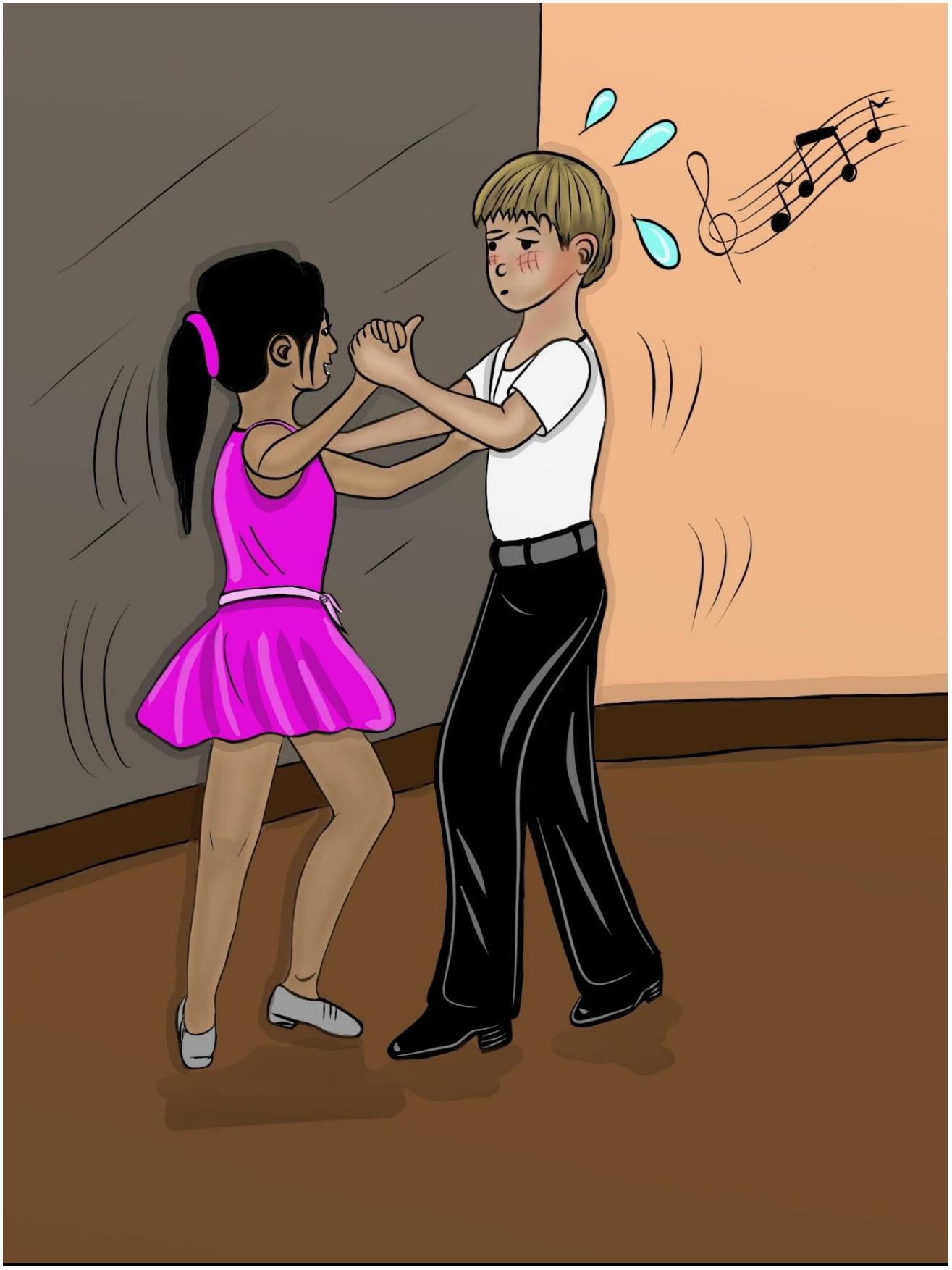
Wait... A memory popped into his head. Last week, he overheard the EQ pod his mom was listening to at the time.

“That was it!” he thought, remembering...

Boredom was a stepping stone to creativity. He didn’t have to be bored. Creativity came from boredom because the mind needed idle time to create.



Marc couldn't create music like James' band or create dance movements while listening to music.



The only things Marc had in his head were images; funny pictures from when he was younger.He only had pictures; funny pictures from when he was younger.

"That's it!" thought Marc. "I'm going to create drawings."

The day was sunny, Dad wasn't around to take him on adventures. He'd have to create his own adventures instead of sitting on the boredom stone.

Marc decided to draw pictures of the silly things he did when he was little. If his pranks made him laugh, the pictures could make other people laugh too.

Drawing all the pictures took him months. When he finished, Mom helped him make a book and together they self-published it.

You've just read it.

This is Marc's book.

Give yourself time to **create**. If you're bored, you have plenty of time to **create**. Remember that **boredom is a stepping stone**, not a living space for your heart and mind.

Kamon

If you enjoyed reading *STUCK*, please leave a review at the store where you purchased the book. A review is the best way to show your support for the author and help new readers to discover Kamon's books. Thank you for your support.

Kamon, an author and illustrator of Abenaki descent, was born in Quebec in 1957. Kamon has written and illustrated more than 80 books, which are published in French and English. Kamon writes funny children's books seasoned with the environment, happiness and Abenaki legends.